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A Continuing Seminar on Operations Research

by

Rear Admiral O. Rudakov

Whether one is talking about participation in the substantiation of fundamental provisions of regulations and manuals, the selection of a variant for the use of forces in a specific situation or about the compilation of a multi-year plan for military shipbuilding and tactical-technical specifications for certain models of equipment, the need for a scientific approach is always first and foremost. Objectivity and scientific quality are the generally recognized principles for our activities.

The practical realization of these principles requires that officers master the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism and Soviet military science as well as the special methods and tools of scientific research. A large group of such means and methods may be found in operations research; the broad application of mathematical methods to develop plans for efficient performance in goal-oriented practical activities is characteristic of this research.

Scientific and pedagogical personnel at naval scientific and educational institutions are involved in the development and use of research methods for the Navy. Usually, relatively few administrative departments, laboratories and academic departments -- often only one or two people -- work on this problem. Under such conditions it is important that the methodological achievements of individuals and small groups more rapidly be made accessible to all comrades interested in this subject. No less important is scientific criticism of these achievements, which make it possible to find and correct defects and point out new possibilities and approaches that have not been considered by the authors. The joint performance of integrated scientific research work and the holding of scientific conferences and meetings help achieve these aims.

In addition, there is an urgent need for a continuing seminar, the task of which would be the creation of conditions required for the free comradely exchange of ideas and opinions and the popularization of results obtained in the area of operations research in the different scientific and educational institutions of the Navy in Leningrad. Such a continuing seminar on operations research was established by us in 1963 on the initiative of instructors of the command faculty of the Naval Academy,

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supported by the head of the academy, Professor Admiral Yu. A. Panteleyev.

Organizational-methodological supervision of the work of the seminar is the responsibility of the academy's control department and department of operational and combat training.

The seminar is in its third year and some results may be reported. The work is going smoothly: studies are held regularly once each month with the exception of the summer recess period. In two years and three months, 21 studies were conducted and more than 25 reports were given; over 150 persons took part in discussions of these reports, while the total attendance was over 1,500.

In addition to the more experienced comrades (Professor Engineer Colonel I. Ya. Diner; Doctor of Physicomathematical Sciences N. I. Vorobyev; Candidate of Naval Sciences Colonel B. I. Yurkevich; Candidates of Science Captains 2nd Rank A. P. Tron, G. S. Kontratenko, and V. G. Suzdal; Engineer Captain 1st Rank N. G. Borisov; and Captains 3rd Rank Sh. K.Vakhitov and Ya. S. Dymarskiy), the seminar readily turns over its rostrum to those who are presenting reports for the first time and who especially need all-around comradely criticism and support. Among these should be mentioned Captains 2nd Rank G. A. Begidzhanyants, R. N. Vyadzinskiy, N. S. Volgin, A. A. Volkov, O. A. Mrykin and others.

The subject matter of the seminar is varied. Rear Admiral B. F. Petrov presented an interesting multiple-level report on problems of combating enemy missile-carrying submarines. Many reports were devoted to various problems of search and tracking theory, the optimal distribution of similar and dissimilar forces and means, and the calculation of the economic factor.

In selecting reports the goal was to more extensively introduce into research methods of dynamic programming, game theory and other methods of generating recommendations for decision-making, both under conditions of a set situation as well as in an uncertain one.

In the coming academic year it is expected that the practice of conducting seminar studies with two types of reports will be continued. One type includes reports by the heads of operational-tactical departments (presentations by Rear Admiral V. S. Lisyutin, G. D. Dyachenko and Colonel R. S. Demidov are expected). The second type contains reports by seminar participants on methodological works performed by them in which new res
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were obtained.

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The continuing Leningrad seminar on operations research is a progressive development in the life of the scientific community of the Navy.

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